

I claim:

1. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family, which includes a body having a top, a plurality of strings having different resonant frequencies, a bridge supporting said strings, said bridge having feet which are
5 pressed against said top by tension in said strings and causing said top to vibrate in accordance with vibrations of said strings, and a bass bar supporting said top under the foot of said bridge closest to the bass strings, the improvement which comprises:

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10 a pickup comprising one or more piezo-electric sensing element(s), said pickup being located between a foot of said bridge and said vibrating top.

2. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim 1 wherein said pickup is located between the foot of said bridge closest to said bass strings and said vibrating top. *a*

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3. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim *2* wherein substantially all of the force exerted by said base side foot is transmitted to said vibrating top through said piezo-electric sensing element(s).

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34. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim 16 wherein said piezo-electric sensing element(s) are encased in a foil sandwich which provides shielding from external electric fields.

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5. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim 4, wherein said pickup is flexible and is conformable to the shape of said top.

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